Dateline **March 1, 1959**

Sen. J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, recently announced four studies of US foreign policy to be made by research organizations for the senate. The study areas are:

1. Possible scientific developments and their potential impact on foreign policy of the United States.

2. United States foreign policy in Western Europe.

3. United States foreign policy in the Near East.

4. Worldwide and domestic economic problems and their impact on the foreign policy of the United States.

Ten additional studies will follow. Prior to the committee's report on these studies public hearing will be held to receive testimony from interested parties, probably late this summer.

Twenty-one temperance groups have voted to join forces in an effort to secure legislation to ban liquor service aboard commercial planes.

At a meeting of the National Temperance and Prohibition council delegates voted to join forces and concentrate on this one legislative goal.

The measure passed the House of Representatives during the 85th Congress but was blocked in the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce committee.

Congressman Lane of Massachusetts and Congressman Elliot of Alabama have both introduced bills to outlaw liquor aloft. Senator Langer of North Dakota is expected to introduce a similar bill in the senate.

Letters urging passage should go to senators and congressmen; also chairman and members of both interstate and foreign commerce com-

(please turn to back page)

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CONTACT

combining services of the

- GENERAL BOARD OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS
- GENERAL BOARD OF WORLD PEACE
- GENERAL BOARD OF TEMPERANCE

of The Methodist Church

CONTACT

sponsored jointly by three World Service agencies of The Methodist Church

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Vol. I, No. 3 March 1, 1959

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Contact is issued twice each month by the General Boards of Temperance, World Peace and Social & Economic Relations of the Methodist Church.

Editorial Offices are in the Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Ave., N. E., Washington 2, D. C.

Advertising rates and information are available from Editorial Offices, 100 Maryland Ave., N. E., Washington 2, D. C.

Subscription Price is $3.00 per year in advance. Single copies are 35c each. Write to Service Department, 100 Maryland Ave., N. E. Washington 2, D. C.

Change of Address information should be sent with both old and new addresses to Contact Service Department, 100 Maryland Ave., N. E., Washington 2, D. C.

Application to mail at 2nd class postage rates is pending at Washington, D. C.

. . . at your service

WHAT IS CONTACT?

This new, short-deadline service presents a combination of mailings previously provided for leaders in the fields of Christian Social Relations by three World Service Agencies of The Methodist Church.

It is further evidence of efforts toward coordination and economy in the development of a more effective program by these agencies through the Interboard Commission on Christian Social Relations.

The new *Contact* service combines the *Courier* newsletter of the Board of World Peace, the *Clipsheet* and *Contact* services of the Board of Temperance and general mailings of the Board of Social & Economic Relations.

It is designed to provide short-deadline news on fast breaking national and international issues, plus depth reporting and analysis from a Christian perspective.

Contact's primary audience is the conference and district leaders whose work with the three sponsoring boards necessitates a close "contact" with and knowledge of national and international issues. Its pages will also contain specific suggestions for implementing a district and conference program in the Christian Social Relations fields. *Contact* will also have real value for local church leaders as a supplement to the emphasis on promotion and methods now found in *The Methodist Story* and in the Christian Social Relations section of *The Methodist Woman.*

Contact is mailed twice monthly on a two day deadline from editorial offices in The Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Northeast, Washington 2, D. C. The subscription price is $3 per year.

BOOKS

Christian Responsibility on a Changing Planet—report of the fifth World Order Study conference, National Council of Churches. Board of World Pleace, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Ill., 35 cents each; three for $1.

This is the official study book growing out of the recent Cleveland conference on World Order. It is just off the press.

In a paperbound edition, it contains 50 pages of basic study and discussion text for the coming interdenominational "Nation-wide Program for Peace."

Special Notice

The "Program for Peace," sponsored by the department of international affairs of the National Council of Churches with more than a score of participating denominations, will reach the entire nation from June 1959 to June 1960.

An optional, simplified study guide to supplement the textbook will be released by April 1 for leaders using the study book in classes.

The contents of the study book should become familiar at once to conference board of peace officers and members and other key social action leaders. Local congregations will use the book widely in study and discussion groups, for adult classes and for commission study and reports.—DT

Brighter Than A Thousand Suns—by Robert Jungk, Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, $6.

Here is the poignant personal history of the atomic scientists of Germany, Britain and United States—with some Russians, Italians and French thrown in—who discovered the secret of the bomb. How American scientists urged government

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HOLBROOK LIBRARY PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

This issue of *Contact* continues our report on the meeting of the General Board of Temperance in the form of excerpts from important statements made there. With the next issue we will return to the usual treatment of news, program and query. Resource reviews of films and books will be found regularly in the "At Your Service" columns.

SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENT AND SOCIAL ADVENTURE

Highlights of a report to the General Board of Temperance by Dr. Caradine R. Hooton, general secretary.

Leaders in many significant nations are beginning to manifest serious concern over solutions for the complex alcohol problem. For the first time in recent years statesmen and disturbed citizens are now focusing attention upon those principles, practices and pressures that largely determine what happens to people.

Our own 86th Congress this month heard the President say:

"The basic question facing us today is more than mere survival—the military defense of national life and territory. It is the preservation of a way of life. We must meet the world challenge and at the same time permit no stagnation in America."

What has produced decadence and caused death of nations in the past? Students of history discover that the chief causes are militarism, materialism, racism and alcoholism.

In addition to alcoholism, other things are now eating away the moral and spiritual vitality of America. For instance here are five categories of permissive evils, correction of which awaits concerted action of all good citizens:

Gambling—No other nation spends more on gambling than does the United States. Current estimates stand at $30,000,000,000 yearly.

Pornography — Hundreds of "glamor" magazines and motion pictures now sell sex as a commodity, openly defying attempts at self regulation through codes of conduct.

Narcotics—While narcotic addiction is under general control, the traffic in narcotics is still a major problem. The use of barbiturates, tranquilizers and other dangerous drugs is an increasing menace.

Smoking—New scientific evidence on the possible relationship of smoking and cancer makes this issue of prime importance to Christians.

Sunday Observance—The over commercialization of the Sabbath is a serious concern of many Christians. Some places of business need to be open on the Sabbath to serve the general welfare. This is not true of others.

Major concern of our board has a necessity centered in the complex problems of alcohol, but we must now give more direct and persistent attention to these other areas of responsibilities.

Bishops Speak

Let it be said here that America will be definitely sobered by the courageous pronouncement of Methodism's Council of Bishops, in a brief, bold statement reaffirming the church's belief in and stand for total abstinence from all uses of intoxicants.

This was perhaps the church's most effective answer to the undocumented and unsupportable releases by the liquor business and related industries on the 25th anniversary of repeal.

While liquor propagandists are training the public to plant their feet in the clouds, some preachers are content with teachings that leave their parishioners in a fog. Some pastors timidly capitulate to the unchristian idea that "nothing can be done about it," easily adjust to the status quo and quietly content themselves with tepid treatments of other topics farther removed from the prejudices or fears of their people.

Yet, it is heartening to note that

TEMPERANCE

increasing numbers of great pastors are preaching abstinence as never before, and inspiring participation in the new programs of temperance education and action.

Fewer Adult Drinkers

The Gallup poll of Mar. 5, 1958 reveals some astonishing figures. Since 1945, despite sharp increase in population and the industry's unprecedented budget for alcohol advertising, the ratio of drinkers among our adult population has *decreased* 12 percent. This falling off has been mostly among women and youth of high-school age. The poll furthermore notes that there are approximately 56,900,000 persons in the country who use intoxicants, as against 59,700,000 users one year ago—a decline from 58 to 55 percent today.

There are also indications of a decrease in the number of college drinkers. The trend among young adults is definitely away from alcohol.

The figures accentuate the importance of continuing our positive program of *education.*

Through the interboard schools of instruction, conducted jointly with the mandatory commissions, we have reached many thousands of local church leaders who have gained new respect for temperance and its creative services to people.

To the board's own regional briefing conferences came, within the

year, nearly 600 conference, district and local church leaders for job analysis and inspiration. They went away informed and enthusiastic.

Another reason for the decline in drinking and consumption of alcoholic beverages is the *commitment* emphasis.

No longer thought of as merely a pledge signing campaign, spasmodically promoted by a general board and half heartedly tolerated by the generally bored, this perennial effort in behalf of abstinence and temperance action has become a churchwide concern of Methodists and other Christians of America.

The year of special emphasis upon *rehabilitation* has turned the energies of pastors and people steadily toward Christian ministries to those who are in trouble with alcohol. The rapid rise in the number of problem drinkers (due not to more drinkers but to more drinking by users of alcoholic beverages) has become a source of great concern to church leaders everywhere.

National Legislation

You are familiar with the repeated efforts to pass such national legislation as the Langer bill against advertising of alcoholic beverages, and the Thurmond bill to outlaw the service of alcoholic beverages on airlines. By a narrow margin these proposals again failed in 1958, but great good has resulted from the hearings.

It is confidently believed that airlines and advertisers are now in the less favorable graces of lawmakers, and that the people now have a better chance of getting these needed forms of legislative relief.

Despite reversals of our hope for the bills in question, other legislative services were of prime importance and great value to the nation. Many measures were proposed by the liquor interests which were killed in committee.

One law of national concern on chemical tests was enacted for the District of Columbia. This will greatly strengthen the hands of enforcement officers wherever drinking and driving are involved.

Another was the allocation to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare of $750,000 for research and recommendations on alcoholism.

Of far reaching significance were victories against pressures to legalize lotteries, racing and other forms of gambling. Not the least significant bill in 1958 had to do with removing tobacco growing from the favored list of six special agricultural projects receiving federal subsidies.

Special Services

Much of our time is consumed with services to states and annual conference boards needing help in legislative matters. Among these are Oklahoma, where repeal of prohibition is again the storm center of state concern, and in Alaska where a new constitution is being formed.

Someone has insisted that "you can't continuously keep the church at crusade pitch on old issues and controversial problems." Sin does clothe itself in new forms, so that salvation must be offered through new patterns.

But it is folly to neglect one area of duty because it is old while adjusting to other demands that are seemingly new. For a great Methodism like ours the challenge can never be met by retreating from one set of unsolved problems in order to concentrate on treatment of more popular issues.

KEFAUVER COMMENTS ON CRIME PROBLEM

Speaking before the annual meeting of the Methodist Board of Temperance, Sen. Estes Kefauver said:

"According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, crime costs this nation $20 billion a year. Twenty billion dollars is five times the amount America will spend this year for scientific research in the vital field of missile weapons and space exploration. It is 140 times greater than the amount asked by the administration to implement the National Education Defense act.

"For every dollar contributed to churches, $10 will be spent against crime.

"Indeed, it might be observed that although crime may not *pay*, it most certainly *costs.*"

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMITMENT PROGRAM

by Bishop John Wesley Lord

Bishop Lord is President of The General Board of Temperance. The following statement was a part of his opening address to the board at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C., Jan. 28, 1959. Bishop Lord is also a vice-president of the General Board of Education and chairman of its division of the local church.

From sections of the church I have received criticisms of the program of the Board of Temperance. Some of these criticisms have been sincere, others were suspect.

Particular objection is made to the "commitment" portion of our program. This is strange.

Commitment is a perfectly good word in all other activities of our church life, but in temperance education, it appears to be anathema to some.

Surely the objectors are right when they say that education should not coerce; but should not all education worthy of the name lead to some form of commitment? Life cannot remain a classroom forever.

If educations seeks to give the student a body of facts upon which to make scientific deduction, it must also give to the student judgments and values and attitudes by which life is to be lived and the highest good conserved.

Help in Decision Making

There are decisions that must be made once and for all as in a court of law. This is a true aim of education.

To be sure these decisions are subject to review and change when found to be untrue or in violation of the good and welfare of the community. But on the basis of these facts, judgments and spiritual norms, commitments are made by the individual and by the community that become a part of the common law or ethos of all so committed.

Alfred North Whitehead reminds us that all education is essentially religious. For education must inculcate a sense of duty and a sense of reverence. But duty to what or to whom; and reverence for what or for whom?

Education has as its true objective the commitment of life to worthy ends. The Methodist Church through a long and honored history has discovered that sobriety and abstinence are necessary to the life that seeks moral perfection and is committed to God's righteous ways. Methodism stands, therefore, as a church committed to this spiritual insight.

I believe our board is educationally sound and consistent with good educational theory when it seeks from its members voluntary commitment to this spiritual insight. I make no apology for it.

The church does not coerce the conscience, but it has the duty to educate that conscience so that the conscience of an individual will seek and desire the highest Christian values. Let me remind you that commitment to abstinence is for the strong and not for the weak.

What About Other Churches

If someone says that other great communions do not support this spiritual insight, I must argue that many people within these communions do support this position of abstinence for the committed Christian. Even if this were not so, I should prize this insight as one peculiar to The Methodist Church, with the hope that one day it might be embraced by churchmen everywhere.

I believe that life is commitment and that the nature of that to which we are committed determines the depth and value of our Christian experience. For those who are neither willing nor strong enough to take the position of abstinence, there are other communions of believers in which they may find a more congenial climate of opinion. Or, if this alternative is not acceptable, they may remain within The Methodist Church and in "good" conscience work to change the mind of the church in this matter.

I believe the statement of The Methodist Church on temperance should be rewritten and made more Christian; but I likewise believe that its essential position should be maintained and strengthened.

Reformed Church Statement

One of the finest statements we have is that of the Reformed Church in America, whose General Synod took the position that, "in the light of present conditions, voluntary, total abstinence should be recognized as the desired behavior of the members of our churches."

I quote from this statement:

"Let it be said without equivocation that the committee does not want to infringe on any member's freedom in Christ through attempts to enforce legalistic measures or pronouncements . . . To those who have voluntarily yoked themselves to total abstinence, we heartily recommend the continuance of such procedure. To those who, under God and the laws of the state, maintain their right to participate, we commend the imperative of reconciliation. The privileges of Christian liberty should not be commandeered at the expense of concurrent responsibilities. In the light of the enormity of the sociological problems involved, your committee desires that the accent fall on the responsibilities rather than on the privileges. We urge you to make

your decision from the perspective of the cross on whether you will follow the guidance of the denomination. In that perspective, the weaker brother takes on heightened, often decisive significance.

"We ask you to ponder the evils produced in our social life through the indiscriminate use of alcohol. Dr. Karl Menninger recently reported to the annual meeting of the department of services of the National Council of Churches that the five million alcoholics in our country constitute the nation's largest mental health problem. Your discriminate use may not contribute directly to these results, but the weak willed and the undisciplined of our communities and congregations often are not capable of interpreting the moderate "practice of distinction" in public as a witness to responsible discrimination. Rather, for them it buttresses their inordinate use of the stuff. In view of these far reaching sociological implications, we suggest that the most effective ethical and spiritual witness that we as a church can muster is a united, voluntary practice of abstinence."

Methodist Position

What a fine and utterly Christian statement! And we may place beside it the equally fine phrase used by the late Bishop Paul B. Kern in the Episcopal Address of 1952:

"We call our people to the high doctrine of total abstinence."

And then from the statement in our present *Discipline:*

"The use of alcoholic beverages violates the Christian principle that we are each our brother's keeper. We are stewards of our influence upon others. He who uses alcoholic beverages may by his example lay a stumbling block in the path of a brother and thus contribute to the destruction of another human personality. The influence of personal example is a sacred trust. For a Christian the use of intoxicating liquors is a fundamental moral issue which must be determined in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

I believe that our church in calling its people to the high doctrine of abstinence through voluntary commitment is educationally sound, is true to biblical ethical principles and insights, and merits the trust and support of all in every communion of believers.

ROLE OF LEGISLATION IN HUMAN CONDUCT

The speaker is Ernest S. Griffith, dean, School of International Service, The American university. His topic: "Christian Witness Through Legislation."

"It is true that you cannot *make* people good by legislation. But you can make people *better* by operating on their environment and education."

"The Christian works on a network of laws to make a better environment for youth, to provide better education for youth, to surround youth with an education that will build a constructive point of view.

As the Christian approaches legislative effort, he should remember four things, the speaker said.

1. No one law can be passed on the basis of one principle alone, with all others ignored.

2. There are limits to the effect of law in social change. In most cases you have to have far more than a simple majority.

3. Most social progress is made very gradually, with time for consolidation and holding the line.

4. But *sometimes* great issues do arise, and if the climate is right, people will change and laws will change and society will change.

by

Caradine R. Hooton

That we might be moderate in all things, let us keep Lent. Lest we capitulate before little compromises, let us remember that the Christian life is a disciplined life.

The meaning of temperance is true mastery of self. The phrase used above has no application to the uses of intoxicants. Christians can be "moderate" only in good things.

The best way to give up self is to become lost in service. Peter Marshall prayed that we might stand up for something lest we fall for anything.

Senator Estes Kefauver recently said: "Congress ought to pass the bill which would outlaw the service of intoxicants on airlines. If they care enough, churchmen can help the pilots and stewardesses secure the passage of this law that most of us really want now."

"Never such service since Caesar!" says the advertisement. Above this slogan is pictured a bottle of champagne being served by a stewardess to a lordly passenger robed in the garment of a conqueror. Does this depict the modern Caesar who says, "I came, I saw, I concurred?"

This gold service deserves the "boot" that every conscientious citizen ought to give it. Your protest could be followed by preference for another line or choice of tourist accommodations.

In answer to the question, "Should Christians Drink?" Bishop John Wesley Lord says, "The clear implications of our gospel, the criticial nature of the age in which we live, the nature of man himself, all answer 'No!' "

Is anything being done in your state to make the alcohol industry pay costs of liquor's damage to its victims? At Appleton, Minn. a court rendered judgment against the city for $97,000 as damages resulting from an auto accident due to liquor sold by the municipal store to a minor.

WORLD PEACE

What do national lawmakers think about the question of disarmament?

Early in January the Board of World Peace sent an individually typed letter to every member of congress. The letter drew attention to the statements of the Methodist General Conference and Council of Bishops against universal military training. The bishops' suggestion that the draft not be renewed was cited. Congressmen and senators were asked to give this possibility serious consideration.

About 150 congressmen have replied. Most have merely acknowledged the letter, but a large number offered some comment. Here is a brief analysis of their answers.

LAWMAKERS RECORD POSITIONS ON DISARMAMENT QUESTION

Favor Draft

Among those who favor the present draft, many agreed with the opinion of Sen. Joseph Clark of Pennsylvania, "It these were normal times I would be in complete agreement with you. We cannot, however, overlook the challenge to the survival of our way of life which is presented by the Soviet Union and Communist China."

Rep. Herlong, a Methodist from Florida, wrote: "I feel it is the better part of wisdom, with the present world situation as it is, to follow the admonition of the scripture and 'keep our lamps trimmed and burning.'"

While promising to keep an open mind, Sen. Kennedy of Massachusetts declared: "It may well be necessary to increase our manpower somewhat in order to have more versatile abilities to engage in limited and local wars."

Ask Further Study

Several replies reflected a desire for a careful study:

"The congress should certainly examine this proposal closely in the light of changing conditions and changing military needs."—Marshall of Minnesota.

"I am a Methodist and the father of three sons and you may be sure that I will not approach this military service issue lightly." — Kilgore of Texas.

Rep. Miller of California proposed that men who escape the draft should be required to perform constructive civilian work: "I have proposed the reactivation of the Civilian Conservation corps. Likewise, I would like to institute a program of exchange youth work camps with foreign nations. Thus, if a young man did not wish to go in the military service, he could go to a foreign country and there put in a like period of time working on some worthwhile public works project."

Oppose Draft

In ten letters the writers indicated clear opposition to any continuance of the draft.

Rep. McGovern of South Dakota, former professor at Dakota Wesleyan, said: "I want to assure you that I am in agreement with the position taken by the General Conference. As a Methodist, I am proud of the forward-looking position taken by my church."

A Connecticut representative, Mr. Kowalski, used these words: "As a retired army officer I am inclined to agree with you that sufficient military manpower for the defense of our country can be secured without recourse to universal military training."

Congresswoman Edith Green of Oregon struck a religious note: "I do not feel that the moral aspects of the question are necessarily subordinate to the 'practical.' In fact, I know of nothing more practical than Christian morality, even in the field of keeping our nation alive."

Letters Welcome

Enthusiasm was reflected in the note of Rep. Barr of Indiana who wrote: "I received my education at a

WORLD PEACE

Methodist university, DePauw, in Greencastle, Ind., and will be delighted to hear from you at any time."

A similar feeling was evident in the reply from Derwinski of Illinois: "I appreciate having your letter as it is through letters such as the one you have written that I am able to know how the people of my congressional district feel about this matter."

Chester Bowles of Connecticut put the issue into its larger framework when he stated: "It seems to me the first step in working towards the eventual abolition of conscription, is the establishing of a sound and effective foreign policy which will be able to cope with the problem of the cold war with the Soviets. It is good to know your organization agrees with me that the United Nations can be used effectively to work towards world peace, only if we first establish an affirmative policy of our own."

What Next?

The draft issue will finally be decided in the senate where more careful scrutiny and thorough debate can be expected.

Sen. Case of South Dakota wrote in his February 9 newsletter: "The proposed four-year extension of the draft may develop some controversy before congressional action is completed. There are many members of congress, including myself, who have serious reservations about continuing the selective service program for that period in its present form.

"Burdens fall unevenly. With over 100,000 becoming 18½ and registering every month, only 10,000 to 15,000 are called upon for service. Yet liability remains until age 26.

"This matter will come before the Senate Armed Services committee where I anticipate we will examine the operations of the law in some detail."—HW

PERILS IN DEEDLESS PRAYER

A national "Prayer for Peace" day has been proposed in a joint resolution by Rep. Harold Collier (R.-Ill.). This proposal gathers up sentiment and procedures already well established by various religious groups such as the peace prayer plan of the Laymen's movement.

Probably the most important of these are the "Prayer Vigils For Peace" sponsored by our General Board of Evangelism. The core of the program was outlined in a feature article in the January issue of *The Methodist Story*. Towns and districts, as well as local churches, are uniting in such vigils. Participation now includes more than Methodists.

Favor Action Plan

We wish at the outset to commend this plan and urge its wider adoption. Prayer as our strongest response and adjustment to God's will is a prerequisite to all Christian action.

We do hope that such prayer eventuates in action. Certain practical steps ought to be the culmination of a prayer vigil. Relevant action supports rather than diminishes the integrity of prayer itself.

Therefore, it would seem only good sense that a congregation preparing for a prayer vigil would turn jointly to its commission on membership and evangelism and its commission on Christian social relations. The latter group would work on practical follow-up projects and activities that would conserve the motivation developed through prayer and channel it to useful ends.

Weakness Possible

Even the best things have inherent in them certain weaknesses. Prayer groups are not immune. The demise of the older prayer meeting in many churches cannot be attributed entirely to worldliness and to the giddy pace of modern living. Certain of the causes of decay were internal.

Some of the dangers from which even so lofty an aim as the prayer vigil must be safeguarded ought to be clearly understood.

Often s e n t i m e n t and emotion aroused in devotional practices ebbs

away into frustration due to no practical outlet. Let that happen time and again and at last we are spiritually exhausted. Any preacher is well aware of this. For most worshippers the sermonic insights of Sunday morning slough off after the benediction into chicken every Sunday.

Prayer Not Enough

The next danger is found among those who make of prayer and work a division of labor. Some who pray assert that for them that takes care of the matter. Let others work at it who will; have they not done the chief thing of all?

A thoughtful perusal of the programs of some church groups during and after a prayer peace vigil cannot fail to give this same impression. They have prayed about peace; hence it is taken care of for awhile. Other interests are now in order.

No matter how sincerely this policy is held; it is fatal both ways. It leaves action to the prayerless, unhallowed activity! Meanwhile, it makes hypocrites of saints leaving their importunations without supporting effort.

A further peril in deedless prayer is the untroubled serenity of those who, "leaving it with God," see no need for diligence. No cavalier dismissal of interest baffles peace workers more than the casual unconcern of pious souls who confidentally assert that they have "placed it in the Lord's hands and everything will work out." Peace is assured, they contend, and blithely dismiss the world's insecurity without further thought or comment.

In short, prayerful vigil and vigilant endeavor are both requisites of peace. For, like faith, prayer without works is dead!—DT

SUDAN POLICY IS INDEPENDENT

The new government of Sudan has endorsed the following outline of Sudanese foreign policy. It is an interesting illustration of the desire of an independent African nation to follow a policy of neutrality and not connect itself to either the East or West. It reenforces the thought that economic assistance, more and more, should be administered by the UN.

"(1) Neutrality with respect to the two Eastern and Western blocs, and co-operation with either of them if such cooperation is in the interests of the Sudan.

"(2) Nonalignment with any of the Arab blocs and endeavors to bring them closer together and reconcile their differences.

"(3) Cooperation in all fields with independent African nations and encouragement of liberation movements in the dependent territories of the African continent and elsewhere.

"(4) Avoidance of military pacts except for the defense of the Sudan against overt aggression.

"(5) Acceptance of foreign economic assistance and loans which do not derogate from the independence and the sovereignty of the Sudan; and refusal of offers of conditional aid or loans which might warrant any foreign intervention in the domestic affairs of the country."

SWEDEN CONTINUES CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE

Several years ago Hinshaw in *Sweden, Champion of Peace* developed the thought that this nation had not had a war for 140 years, primarily because it transformed its agressive impulses into the promotion of programs for human welfare. Count Bernadotte gave his life for peace in Palestine and Dag Hammarskjold is giving his life for peace as secretary general of the United Nations.

Recently the *New York Times* reported another illustration of Sweden's international philanthropy. In Seoul, Korea, the United Nations Reconstruction agency has built a medical center at a cost of $4,000,000.

The governments of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway at a cost of $7,500,000 are providing an 80 member team of Scandinavian experts to assist in the operation of the medical center for five years.

At the end of this period it is expected that Korean doctors and nurses will be able to operate the institution.

DRAFT SEEN AS WASTE OF FUNDS

Stuart Langton, chairman of the United Christian Youth movement, said the draft law is no longer "universal," since only 125,000 young men out of 2,000,000 eligibles are taken each year and those "intelligent or affluent" enough to continue formal education, as well as those "who marry young and have children" escape from its obligations.

With the cost of training now estimated at $21,000 a man, only three percent of the draftees reenlist, compared with 30 percent of voluntary enlistees, he pointed out, a vast waste of money.

by *Daniel E. Taylor*

Personal concern led me to be one of the 22 signers of the recent message to President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Macmillan and Premier Khrushchev, urging the three statesmen "to exert vigorous, constructive, and constant leadership to find a way to end the arms race which is placing the future of all mankind in jeopardy."

We expressed the hope that problems involving the detectability of underground explosions will not deflect the governments from their stated desire to end all nuclear weapons tests. Scientific talent and resources seem sufficient to devise a workable inspection system satisfying reasonable requirements.

The crucial period in the Geneva negotiations has been reached. There is yet some hope of agreement. Meanwhile, the Russians, with typical fearfulness, continue obdurate about foreign inspectors on their territory. As consultations advance, terms and conditions change and the goals and diplomatic advantage become hopelessly intertwined. It is said that the American representatives receive more than 100 pages of briefing daily from Washington.

Our own advisers are split, some favoring and some opposing further testing. Meanwhile, the fate of even this minor step toward disarmament hangs in the balance.

At home attention turns to a related peacetime problem, the disposal of radioactive wastes. A brief article, "Radioactive Graveyards," in The New Republic refers to the 715 pages of testimony on this matter before the subcommittee on radiation of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. This is a real and growing problem.

Some annual conference and local church groups should select it for study and formulate for the church a report in the light of Christian evaluations.

ADMIRAL SPEAKS AGAINST USE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS

One of the navy's foremost combat commanders has spoken out against the concept of limited atomic war.

In Washington Vice Admiral Charles R. Brown declared: "I have no faith in the so-called controlled use of atomic weapons. I would not recommend the use of any atomic weapon no matter how small when both sides have the power to destroy the world."

The admiral has just left command of the 6th fleet in the Mediterranean, a force that is known to have weapons of atomic capability.

His statement echoes the fears of many Americans who believe that small atomic weapons might spread a brush fire war into a world holocaust instead of limiting hostilities.

TRADE AND TURBINES CREATE POLICY PROBLEMS

In the last session of congress the reciprocal trade agreements were extended for another four years. However, the tariff issue is going to be with us for many years to come. The extension of the agreement does not mean that all is rosy on the trade front.

For example, two firms, one British and one American, recently submitted bids for hydraulic turbines at a project in Greer's Ferry, Ark. The British bid was $1,450,000, while the American bid was $1,750,000. The American firm was awarded the contract.

Why American?

First of all, under existing regulations a foreign bidder can be awarded a contract only if his bid is at least six percent under that of the lowest American bid, or 12 percent if the American firm is in an area of substantial unemployment.

However, any bid of a foreign company may be rejected if the US government decides that a vital national security interest is involved.

Under this principle the British bid was rejected. The British ambassodor remarked that it was a strange form of trade liberalization to invite foreigners to bid and then tell a low foreign bidder that, after all, questions of national security debar them from being awarded the contract.

Geographical Principle?

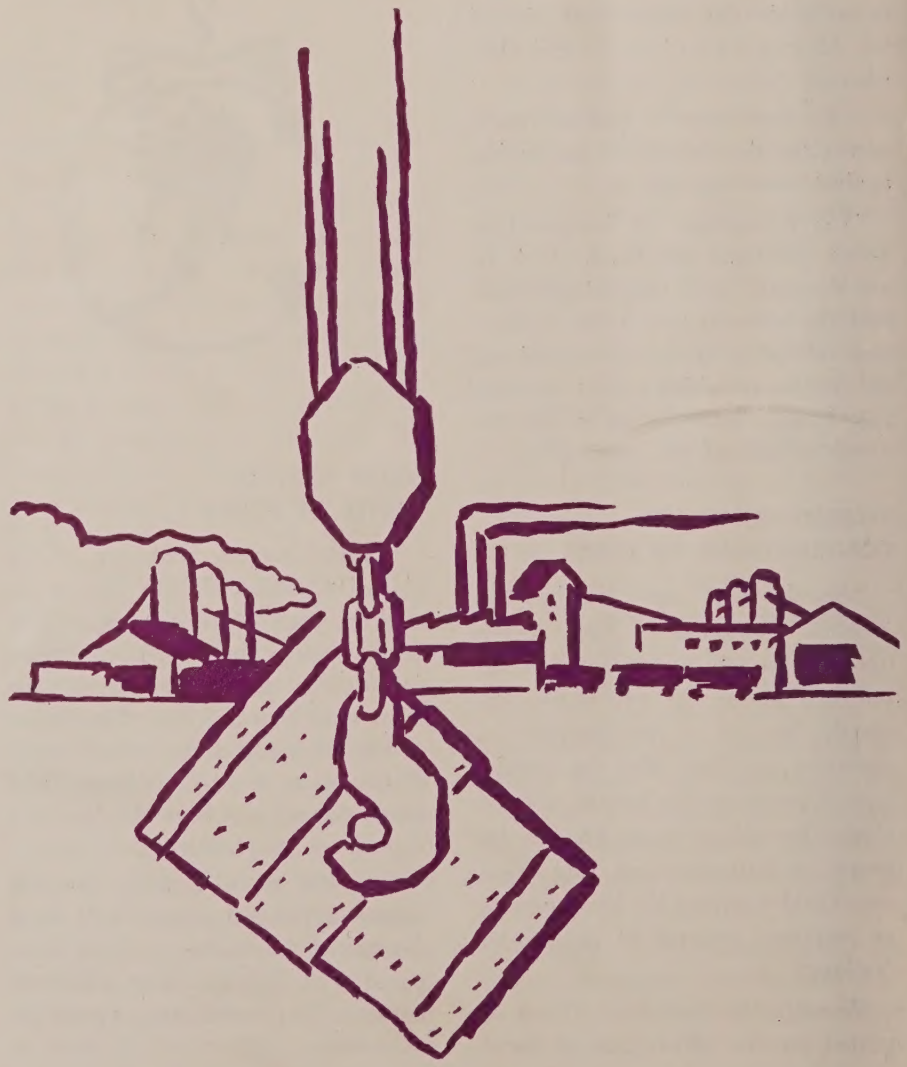
Let us suppose that the state of Arkansas asked for bids for turbines and that a firm from Schenectady, N. Y., submitted a bid much lower than a firm from Little Rock. Should it prefer a native industry or support the principle of free enterprise and competition? Generally in the 49 states we believe in the advantage of competition.

As we see it, the principle does not end at the ocean's shore.

UNESCO HELPS ISRAEL INCREASE PRODUCTION

A major project of UNESCO is to increase production in the world's arid zones. At Beersheeba, Israel, UNESCO is helping the Negev Institute for Arid Zone research develop devices by which the energy of the sun may be used to produce steam, to cool houses and to run small power units for farmers.

In experiments on refrigeration and air-conditioning, the institute has managed to bring the price of solar cooking down to a cost only twice as high as electrical refrigeration.



Staff members of the General Board of Social and Economic Relations are making a very careful analysis of the proposals for federal labor legislation.

An early issue of *Contact* will carry an analysis and possibly a judgment on some of the issues in question.

In the meantime, many have been writing about "Right to Work" laws and the statement adopted by the general board. It states essentially that these laws are not necessary, and that the provision for maintenance of union membership ought to be the subject of negotiation by labor and management in the collective bargaining processes.

For further insight, we present here some thoughts on the matter of right to work, and the things which are needed in constructive legislation to get at some of the basic intra-union problems.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

ARE RIGHT TO WORK LAWS REALLY NECESSARY?

The General Board of Social and Economic Relations has opposed so-called Right to Work laws. Why? The decision was made only after long and careful consideration. It was felt that an expression of judgment would help to promote discussion on this controversial issue. An issue with serious ethical implications for church and society.

Further thought and discussion, if carried on in good spirit and in a democratic way, is wholesome for all concerned.

History of Action

The board did not come to a conclusion on this matter easily or quickly. It was first considered prior to the end of the last quadrennium and before the last general conference. It has been discussed several times. Information both for and against the Right to Work laws has been before the board's committee on industrial relations. This committee wrote the resolution and presented it to the board. It was adopted at the meeting in April 1958.

Laws Unnecessary

Some of the factors involved in the decision on the resolution indicating that Right-to-Work laws are unnecessary were:

A. The government ought to be involved in the normal collective bargaining process as little as possible. The Right to Work laws represent an intrusion into this process.

B. There should be an attempt to widen the areas in which general collective bargaining can take place, free of government action. This will tend to increase the responsibility of both parties and retain essential employer-employee replationships. The board stressed the great responsibility of the labor unions and their leaders when they acquire power to negotiate for all workers in a plant.

C. The question of union shop or maintenance of union membership should be a matter of decision by the parties involved. It should neither be aided by legislation or precluded by it. Right to Work laws prejudice the case and enforce compulsory open shop.

D. The Right-to-Work laws do not achieve the purpose for which they are proposed. These purposes can be achieved in more constructive ways.

E. There are safeguards against irresponsible use of, or acquisition of the right of union shop. The closed shop is now precluded by federal legislation. But in reference to the union shop procedures are very clear and precise.

Procedures Explained

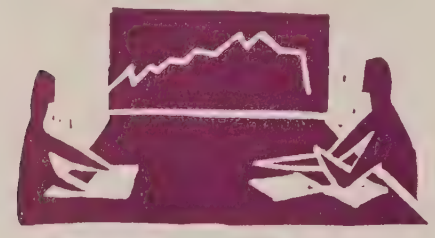
When a union feels that it is in a position to become the negotiating agent for the employees, it can request an NLRB election. If more

than 50 percent of the employees vote for the union (in an election conducted by the government), negotiations for the type of contract begin. At this point questions of wages, conditions of work and type of a union recognition are actually negotiated.

Right to Work laws preclude one important factor involved in these negotiations, namely, whether there shall be a maintenance of union provisions in the contract. None of these provisions can be introduced unless both management and labor agree. We believe that this right is important. Both parties should be involved in the decision. It should not be precluded by government legislation.

Responsible union leadership and membership, curtailment of monoply power, and the elimination of corruption, will not be accomplished by Right to Work laws or the negative action of refusing to join a union or withdrawing from a union. Reform will come about following actions like these:

A. Making sure, by legislation, that a labor union is as responsible before the law as is any other group, especially a corporation.



B. Providing for independent audits of all labor union accounts. The audits should then be deposited with proper government authorities. Financial statements of business corporations are handled this way.

C. All trust funds for pensions, etc., should be subject to audit by state or federal authorities.

D. In every other way, the labor union should be as responsible before the law, and in society generally, as any other group of its nature is required to be.

E. All labor unions should have a provision for a closed ballot, on strike, strike settlement and elections —insured by government if necessary.

What About Associations

The question of associations for collective action, including The Methodist Church, is a difficult one. The American Medical association, the American Bar association and similar groups have restrictions upon membership and a capacity to deal with membership according to procedures largely determined by the organization itself. Freedom is no longer an absolute, if it ever was one, in occupational life.

One of the closet examples is The Methodist Church itself. All Methodist preachers are members of the annual conference, a type of closed shop which in industrial relations is precluded by law.

It is required that a Methodist preacher join an annual conference. The requirements are rigidly set and he is subject at all times to the will of the annual conference. He does this knowing that there is curtailment of freedoms which he might have if he were not a member of a conference.

But he is willing to subject himself to these restrictions for the greater aspects of freedom and other values which he cherishes. This type of illustration could be given from any number of cases (in American life) when concerned with vocation, professional endeavors, and jobs.

Other Agencies Agree

Many other church leaders and organizations such as the executive board of the division of christian life and work of the National Council of Churches have taken essentially the same position as the Board of Social and Economic Relations.

The Board of Social and Economic Relations of The Methodist Chuch is composed of 46 people from all over the church. Its membership contains 6 bishops, 16 clergymen, and 24 lay persons, representing a wide variety of interests. It is the official agency of The Methodist Church responsible to the general conference on economic life, race relations, and social and civic welfare.—DW

MANY FAMILIES LIVE ON LESS THAN $3,000

A dearth of blue collar and "no collar" jobs, racial bias, and no sign of large scale employment expansion in Washington point to a gloomy future, the committee's economic study shows. The picture in the city is quite different from the thriving metro area.

The project staff set an income of less than $3,000 as submarginal for families with four children.

Of the 11,520 families with their 45,775 children who fall into that category, about half are either on relief or are getting surplus food from the welfare department. The other half, the study declared, need help but for various reasons aren't getting any."

This is all too true of many communities in this nation, despite the all-time high of personal income. This is one of the really important problems that the church and society must face *now*.

In the Washington newsletter of the National Farmers union had an instructive excerpt from an article by Betty Miles, *Washington Star* staff writer.

Some 11,520 families, with an average of four children each, are attempting to live in the district on incomes that make survival virtually impossible, the Health and Welfare council of the National Capital area said today.

This "bedrock" of families who are not selfsufficient will grow, not wane, the council's 22-member Junior Village committee reported. All but 345 of the families are Negro.

The committee has been studying since last March the relation of dependent families to the evergrowing population in Junior Village at Blue Plains. This is the city's home for children whose own homes are temporarily—and sometimes permanently—unsatisfactory.

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

. . . That there were 45 actual or attempted bombings of churches, synagogues, and schools or other public buildings from January 1957 to June of 1958? Many church leaders feel this indicates the need for a federal anti-bombing law that can be effective in preventing further outbreaks.

. . . That over 73 percent of last year's federal budget was expended

in current military programs and costs of past wars? This statistic is proof positive of how dependent we are upon a war-based economy for our so-called "economic prosperity."

. . . That if you had invested $1,000 in General Motors common stock back in 1908 your holdings today would be worth more than $1 million, and you would have received a total of $643 thousand in dividends?

. . . That of the approximately five million farm families less than two million produce 85 percent of the food and fibre needs in this country?

. . . That storage costs for our agricultural surpluses are rapidly approaching costs of $1 billion per year?

. . . That the soil bank program has awarded $43,855,793 to 2,422 farm families or farm corporations for taking 1,597,661 acres out of production?

. . . That John W. Baughman Farms company of Liberal, Kan. received a check from the government on the soil bank's acreage program of $322,012.89?

. . . That there are about eleven farmers or farm organizations that received over $100 thousand compensation from the government for not planting acreage?

. . . That there are some 34,717,000 pupils registered in public schools, and over 5,695,000 registered in parochial schools? 90 percent of the parochial school children attend 11,710 Roman Catholic educational organizations. The other 10 percent are to be found in the denominations of the Lutheran (Missouri Synod), 1,188 schools; Seventh Day Adventists, 1,115 schools; Protestant Episcopal, 232 schools. The Methodists do not have any parochial schools.

. . . That 900 Americans are wanted to fill positions of foreign service in the field of agriculture, public health, public education, public administration and economics? If you know any churchmen interested in foreign service of this type, please contact the personnel director, International Cooperation Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

. . . That over two million Americans are employed as permanent and migratory farm workers on the farms of this nation? Their average daily wage is about $6 as compared with the $17 daily wage of manufacturing workers. In 1957 the average annual wage of hired farm workers was $892 including wages from non-farm work.

. . . That 450 thousand foreign nationals are imported into the United States annually as seasonal farm workers?

. . . That agricultural workers are excluded from the benefits of almost all social legislation including maximum hours, minimum wages, unemployment insurance, the right to union organization and collective bargaining?

. . . That to date there are over 80 bills designed to regulate labor management relations presented to the new congress. The administration bill and that of Senator John F. Kennedy are receiving the most attention. But everyone is expecting Senator John L. McClellan to make known his views on labor reform legislation soon.

The associate secretary of the Board of Social and Economic Relations was in Washington recently and attended some of the hearings on this bill. The political by-play between the secretary of labor, James P. Mitchell, and Senator Kennedy was fascinating. Both are prospective candidates in the next presidential campaign.

. . . That the McClellan committee in the field of labor management improper activities begins its third year of operation this month? The bipartisan group of eight senators has already collected 36,000 pages of testimony from more than 1,000 witnesses in the 200 days of open hearings. It has cost our government nearly $1,300,000 to operate this committee and spread the facts of corrupt labor practices before congress and the American public.

. . . That top scientists in the world are making a "no-joking" matter of their confident prediction that within ten years we will have visited the moon, and very likely be projecting plans for visits to Mars and Venus? It is no idle joke that our government is in the process of picking candidates for our first rockets to outer space and the moon.

. . . That the book "Understanding and Preventing Juvenile Delinquency" is to be used in the Detroit conference as a study course in the schools of churchmanship next fall.

LOCAL CHURCHES CARRY OUT SUCCESSFUL ACTION PROGRAMS

The best church attendance outside of Christmas in a small Indiana church occurred when the commission on Christian social relations, along with the pastor, made a presentation of the political issues confronting Christian citizens. They felt that Christian churches should be concerned with legislation because practically all legislation has moral and spiritual aspects.

The report expressed the concern for legislators as sincere citizens. They are asked to know at least something about 1,000 laws, many of which are intricate and technical.

Worship Service

The Sunday morning presentation emphasized that Jesus Christ did not confine his gospel just to praying and devotional worship. He was also concerned with "The personal integrity of His followers, both in regard to their personal lives and their government."

The report to the people concluded with this statement: "We make no apology for today's worship service with the exception of this: We apologize for not calling to the attention of our people the church's obligation in today's democracy before today."

The church is the Action, Ind. Methodist church. The pastor is the Rev. Charles R. Armstrong.

The newly formed commission on Christian social relations has elected Mrs. Hugh Martin, chairman. And the social and economic relations committee chairman is Richard Shearer.

Write Legislators

Next the commission prepared a list of the names and addresses of members of the state house and senate and urged members of the church to write letters to their legislators, expressing their convictions as Christian laymen on current legislative matters. Included in the material handed out was Bishop Richard C. Raines's statement on the Right to Work issue, comments on some gambling bills, comments on school transportation for parochial schools and matters pertaining to law enforcement on drunken drivers.

Youth Program

The commission on Christian social relations of the Christ Methodist church, Inkster, Mich. is not forgetting its responsibilities to

youth. On Sunday, February 1, it presented a program called: *Seminar on Concerns of Youth and for Youth.*

In the workshops the following items were considered: *Youth Concerns and the Family, Youth Concerns and the Church, Youth Concerns and the Community.*

It was preceded by presentation of the film, "A New Kind of Building" (35 mm filmstrip in color with 33⅓ rpm record, script and leader's guide available: Service Department, 100 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington 2, D. C. $6) dealing with the organization of the local church commission on Christian social relations.

This program was followed by a dinner and a panel discussion on the subject: *How Youth May Grow into Responsible Citizenship.* There were three speakers, one a probation officer, another a social worker, and a third from church youth service.

Discussion was followed by a brief worship service and adjournment.

Mrs. William Bostick is chairman of the commission.

Pays Tribute

The General Board of Social and Economic Relations salutes these two local churches, particularly their commission on Christian social relations for forging ahead and presenting varied programs to their own people.

These are but two of many local churches that are beaming excellent educational programs to their church constituency.

IDAHO METHODISTS HOLD LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

"Know your Legislature" was the title of a Methodist legislative seminar at the First Methodist church in Boise, Idaho.

Its purpose was to stimulate Christian interest and understanding of the problems of state government.

Many pastors and the laity of Idaho Methodism attended the seminar, which was sponsored by the board of social and economic relations of the Idaho conference. Other participants included legislators, the lieutenant governor and other state officials.

Some of the discussion topics were: "Behind the scenes in political life at the capitol," "The problems of how does a legislator decides to vote?," "The compromises of political decision" and "The work of legislative committees."

Other topics included: "The tax and financial situation in the state," "The educational needs of the state and ways to finance them," "Labor legislation" and "Public moral legislation."

Copies of this program are available from the general board.

AMERICAN ECONOMY 1959

The Jan. 17, 1959 issue of the *Saturday Review of Literature* has a thorough analysis of the american economy of 1959.

It is called "A New Concept in Economic Reporting" and was prepared and presented in association with the committee for economic development.

For those who wish to have an incisive insight into where America now is economically, this is an excellent analysis.

...at your service

(continued from page 2)

ahead under the mistaken idea that Hitler was about to get the bomb.

How military concerns so dominated the East-West conflict that they were led on to exploit fusion with the greater horrors of the H-bomb. How some dropped out in remorse and others protested vainly. How the military outwitted them in every attempt to make civilian control or peaceful uses primary.

By the way, why did author Jungk, who is now an American citizen living in California, prefer to release his book first in Bern and in the German language?—DT

PACKETS

Youth Packet, Board of Temperance, 25 cents.

A set of seven leaflets, several fliers and a pamphlet, "What's Yours?" especially designed for youth concerned with the problems of alcohol.

Leaflets include "Sixteen Reasons Why an American Youth Chooses Not to Drink," "How to Say 'No'," "Alcohol and the Human Body," "What the Bible Says," "College Drinking," "Alcohol and Personality," and "Alcohol and the Human Spirit."

These materials are prepared for discussion. Groups of young people interested in various phases of the alcohol problem might read individual pieces, then report to the group. Reports can then be discussed.

Adult Packet, Board of Temperance. 25 cents.

This packet contains nine leaflets, a pamphlet, five fliers, a resource list and a "Hello" leaflet, introducing the staff and work of the Board of Temperance.

The nine leaflets are:

"Alcohol and Personality"
"Alcoholism—You Too Can Help"
"Alcohol and the Human Body"
"Alcohol and the Human Spirit"
"Alcohol and Family Life"
"College Drinking"
"Something Better than Smoking?"
"What the Bible Says"
"Methodists Speak"

The materials are designed for adult consumption and represent thoughtful treatments of various phases of the alcohol problems by outstanding authorities.

These could be the basis of discussion in an adult class, and many could be handed out to the congregation as bulletin inserts or included on the literature table. All are available in quantity at low prices.

It's a fact packet. Board of Temperance. 15 cents.

A set of nine leaflets giving carefully documented facts on the problems of alcohol.

The leaflets carry brief, readable copy on the various facts about alcohol and alcoholism—helping to explain a part of the board's work. Each leaflet indicates the field in which the work on this problem "fact" is being done.

For instance—"liquor taxes don't pay liquor costs" is legislation and "one out of 12 social drinkers will become an alcoholic" is in the area of commitment.

Churches and Agricultural Policy, a study packet prepared jointly by the Methodist Board of Social and Economic Relations and the department of church and economic life, National Council of Churches. $1.

This excellent study packet includes a full length book by Walter W. Wilcox titled "The Social Responsibility of Far Leadership."

Wilcox deals with ethics and economic life in general and such questions as: Is agriculture different than other aspects of the economy? What are proper standards of equity for farm people? How much price stabilization is desirable? Should we continue to produce surpluses to be given away abroad?

Also what can be done about the low income family in agriculture?

In a second section the author covers farm organizations, such as: the farmer's union, the farm bureau organizations, the national cooperatives. He discusses their relationship, positions and actions on agricultural problems, and their attitudes toward government.

This book is accompanied in the packet by a very complete discussion guide prepared by Dr. Earl O. C. Brewer of Emory university and Dr. Benson Y. Landis of the National Council of Churches. Also included are "The ethical goals for agricultural policy," which is the official position of the National Council of Churches and a compilation of the statements on agricultural issues by other denominations. There is a pamphlet on "Establishing Methodist Families in Town and Country" published by the division of national missions, Methodist Board of Missions and a copy of The Methodist "Social Creed."

This package is an excellent basis for the firstrate discussion of agricultural issues.

WHO GETS CONTACT?

Contact pays its own way. All readers subscribe with the following exceptions:

Bishops, district superintendents and Methodist editors may receive *Contact* free *if they request it.*

Members of the three sponsoring general boards and secretaries of other Methodist general agencies receive *Contact* free, automatically.

All other readers subscribe at the rate of $3 per year.

Dateline (continued)

mittees. (See your copy of *Register Christian Opinion* for names and addresses.)

All 20 of the Methodist pastors in Des Moines and West Des Moines, Iowa have pledged themselves to "take leadership in breaking down the barriers of public opinion" in racial issues, particularly at the point of finding housing for Negroes displaced by the city's freeway and urban renewal.

"We believe that families are entitled to homes they can afford in communities of their own choosing," said a declaration adopted to be read from all Methodist pulpits January 18.

"We urge all citizens in our community to join forces toward ending racial discrimination in Des Moines."

The resolution noted that "scores of Negro families, soon to be displaced by urban renewal and freeway projects," must find homes in new neighborhoods.

The fight over extension of the draft has moved to the senate. Best chance for modification lies in a proposal for a two year renewal with a study of alternatives.

Express your convictions *now* to armed services committee members: Russell, Ga. (chairman); Byrd, Va.; Johnson, Tex.; Stennis, Miss.; Symington, Mo.; Jackson, Wash.; Ervin, N. C.; Thurmond, S. C.; Engle, Calif.; Bartlett, Alaska; Cannon, Nev.; Bridges, N. H.; Saltonstall, Mass.; Smith, Me.; Case, S. D.; Bush, Conn. and Beall, Md.

Chairman Dawson of Illinois, house government operations committee, has ordered an investigation of the suppression of information by the navy concerning spending of transport service funds. Major point of controversy is the unclassified military sea transportation service report.

This service is a commercial-type shipping line operated by the navy. Comptroller General Compbell, head of the general accounting office, which audits all federal spending, was the original complainant. Campbell also last fall sought unsuccessfully for auditor's access to air force reports on the ballistic missiles program.

A unique Communications seminar is being held Feb. 23-27 at Camp Egan, Tahlequah, Okla. Sponsored by the Board of Temperance, the seminar will include 40 pastor delegates who are concentrating for five days on doing a better job of communicating temperance.

Subjects under study are preaching, mass communications, working with groups and person to person communication.

The ninth Annual Conference of National Organizations, arranged by the American Association for the United Nations, will be held in Washington, D. C. March 9 and 10.

Five plenary sessions will consider the theme "Assessment 1959: Opportunities for United States Leadership in the United Nations."

Dr. Charles F. Boss will head the Methodist peace delegation.

Church-wide study book for 1960-61 will be on the subject of alcohol problems and temperance action.

The study is sponsored annually by the joint section of education and cultivation of the Board of Missions.

General Boards of Education, Evangelism, Temperance, Social and Economic Relations and others have agreed to cooperate in urging the study for every local church.

Douglas Jackson of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist university, will be the author.

Publication date will be about June 1, 1960.

The book is being considered for selection as a leadership education text by the Board of Education.

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